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**BLESSING STATEMENT ON REPORTED REJECTION BY QMG OF JOINT VENTURE PROPOSAL**

Blessing Health System first became aware that Quincy Medical Group (“QMG”) was interested in establishing a second Ambulatory Surgical Treatment Center (“ASTC”) in Quincy when it learned of the filing of QMG’s Certificate of Need (“CON”) application. An analysis by Blessing indicated that this proposed ASTC would have very substantial and permanent negative impacts on healthcare and quality of life in the greater Quincy area. A description of those impacts is contained in the attached letter from Blessing CEO, Maureen A. Kahn.

To avoid these profoundly negative impacts, and in light of the long positive history of collaboration between Blessing and QMG, the Blessing Board of Trustees formally approved an offer of a joint venture proposal with QMG on February 11, 2019. That same day, Blessing leadership formally presented the joint venture proposal to representative members of the QMG board and its executive leadership. In the perception of those Blessing representatives in attendance, the reception was positive. Two days later, without any direct communication from QMG, Blessing first learned through an on-line news story that the proposal had been rejected and that QMG “will continue to dialogue” with Blessing.

“For the benefit of the greater Quincy community, and in light of the long history of collaboration between Blessing and QMG, we made a very sincere joint venture proposal to QMG,” said Maureen Kahn. “Furthermore, such collaboration is strongly encouraged by applicable CON regulations, reflecting the public policy of existing healthcare providers working together when possible,” Kahn continued.

“Obviously, it is disappointing to learn of a ‘rejection’ in the press,” Kahn noted, “but we note QMG’s press statement regarding ‘continuing dialogue’ with hope that Quincy can preserve the critical safety net services and existing jobs that are so vital to our community.”

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